

The Gospel and the Cross

1 Cor 1.14-18

1 Cor. 1:14-15

Baptism closely associated with salvation.

Received Christ--immediately baptized.

Cost something to be baptized .

Baptism: picture of death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Symbolic—identification with Christ....

Paul—let assistants baptize.

Early days-- Paul did baptizing.

Matt. 28:19 Identification with Christ.

Crispus: leader of synagogue when Paul 1st arrived in Corinth.

Gaius: Housed Paul—early convert.

1 Cor. 1:16

Stephanas: Firstfruits of Achaia.

Greece.

Besides I know not

Considerable time elapsed since Paul left Corinth..1 Corinthians 16:15

1 Cor. 1:17

Acts 26:16-18

Called to preach gospel....not gain a gathering

Not with wisdom of words: Verbal eloquence; cleverness of speech; nice outlines and phrases.

Wisdom: sophistry—subtly deceptive reasoning or argumentation.

Corinth prided itself in arts and philosophies

Preaching--everyone understand.

Too much tact...loses contact.

Made of none effect.

Deprived of force and emptied of power

Rendered vain—useless, void of value and of no effect.

Everything we say and do ought to make cross of Christ valuable and effective

1 Cor. 1:18

Preach gospel

Preach cross

Preaching of cross--general.

Preaching of gospel--Part

Everyone that perisheth thinks preaching of cross is foolishness

2 Corinthians 4:4

Preaching of cross

❖ Symbol of pain, distress, and burden-bearing. Matthew 10:38-39

If the cross suited us, it would no longer be a cross, and if we refuse those that hurt us, we will refuse all crosses. The cross which God sends us must of necessity always be humiliating, painful, paralyzing, difficult. The cross is precisely what hurts us in that place where we are most disarmed and vulnerable. Louis Evely (1910-)

❖ Atonement. Galatians 6:14

❖ Sanctification. Philippians 3:18-19

When willing to totally surrender life to God--willing to take up cross and follow Jesus.

❖ Humbleness and obedience. Philippians 2:8

❖ Shame. Hebrews 12:2-3

If we are wise, we will do what Jesus said: endure the cross and despise its shame for the joy that is set before us. To do this is to submit the whole pattern of our life to be destroyed and built again in the power of an endless life. And we shall find that it is more than poetry, more than sweet hymnody and elevated feeling. The cross will cut into our lives where it hurts worst, sparing neither us nor our carefully cultivated reputation. It will defeat us and bring our selfish life to an end. W. Tozer (1897-1963)

Oswald Chambers, *Utmost for His Highest*

The cross is the exhibition of the nature of God, ...

The center of salvation is the cross of Jesus, ...

Preach the cross, and the energy of God is let loose.

If sympathy is all that human beings need, then the cross of Christ is a farce...

The great privilege of discipleship is that I can sign on under His cross, and that means death to sin.

Jesus to Peter and disciples. Matthew 16:24-25 ...*If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. 25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.*

Jesus to the rich young ruler: Mark 10:21*One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.*

Unsaved thinks foolishness—preaching of cross.

To take up the cross means that you take your stand for the Lord Jesus no matter what it costs. Billy Graham (1918-)

We must do something about the cross, and one of two things only we can do—flee it or die upon it. A. W. Tozer (1897-1963)

My God, I have never thanked thee for my thorn.... teach me the glory of my cross, teach me the value of my thorn. George Matheson (1842-1906)

The cross is the pain involved in doing the will of God. Oswald Chambers (1874-1917)

1 Cor. 1:18

Cross--throne of Jesus.

Three responses to cross

1. Stumble (1:23)
2. Laugh (1:23b)
3. Believe and experience power and wisdom of cross (1:24)

Spurgeon: *There are not crown-wearers in Heaven that were not cross-bearers here below.*

So what?

Not wisdom of Words: not by own eloquence and skill (His power)

Main mission?

Preach gospel

Present and bear cross.

- Christian life.
- Atonement
- Surrendering oneself
To take up the cross means that you take your stand for the Lord Jesus no matter what it costs. Billy Graham (1918-)
- Willing to suffer shame for Christ.